

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As Members of the South Florida Congressional delegation, we urge you to help ensure children and families have continued access to vital food assistance through Florida's Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) following Hurricane Irma by extending the deadline for applying for aid. The Florida Department of Children and Families opened three disaster relief sites in both Miami-Dade and Broward Counties in an effort to register our constituents to receive this life-saving assistance. According to reports, there was a massive influx of individuals at each one of the sites, which showcases the great need for this program.

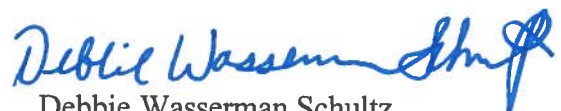
As you know, D-SNAP is a unique and critical tool that can keep the members of our communities from going hungry after a disaster or emergency. Oftentimes the beneficiaries of this aid do not qualify for regular help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and would be left without the means to feed themselves and their loved ones. We have been informed that some of the sites in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties had to be closed early for weather and other conditions. Our constituents, many of whom have made their best efforts to make the upcoming deadline, deserve the opportunity to apply.

In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, we urge you to help our constituents recover from Hurricane Irma and extend the deadline for the Florida's Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Many children and families in our community are facing the very real possibility of going hungry without the crucial help that D-SNAP can offer. We appreciate your assistance with this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary Mike Carroll
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